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March 24, 2004

Attorney Docket No.: 12937-011002

Mail Stop Patent Application

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Presented for filing is a new divisional patent application of:

Applicant: JEFFRY B. SKIBA, JEFFREY P. BALDWIN, LAIRD L. HATCH,
GARY M. GARTSMAN AND RAN OREN

Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR SUTURING

The prior application is assigned of record to Orthopaedic Biosystems Ltd., Inc., a Delaware corporation, by virtue of an assignment submitted to the Patent and Trademark Office and recorded on January 19, 2001 at 011446/0983.

Enclosed are the following papers, including those required to receive a filing date under 37 CFR §1.53(b):

	<u>Pages</u>
Specification	13
Claims	7
Abstract	1
Declaration	3
Drawing(s)	23

Enclosures:

- Copies of Revocation and New Power of Attorney (2 pages) filed May 3, 2001, which were filed in the parent application. Please enter these in this application.
- Preliminary amendment (13 pages).
- Transmittal of Formal Drawings (1 page) with Eleven (11) Sheets of Formal Drawings.
- Information Disclosure Statement (1 page) with copies of PTO-1449s (18 pages) from parent case.
- Serial Postcard.
- Postcard.



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This application is a divisional (and claims the benefit of priority under 35 USC 120) of U.S. Application No. 09/550,975, filed April 18, 2000. The disclosure of the prior application is considered part of (and is incorporated by reference in) the disclosure of this application.

Basic filing fee	\$770
Total claims in excess of 20 times \$18	\$432
Independent claims in excess of 3 times \$86	\$344
Total filing fee:	\$1546

A check for the filing fee is enclosed. Please apply any other required fees or any credits to deposit account 06-1050, referencing the attorney docket number shown above.

If this application is found to be incomplete, or if a telephone conference would otherwise be helpful, please call the undersigned at (202) 783-5070.

Kindly acknowledge receipt of this application by returning the enclosed postcard.

Please direct all correspondence to the following:

Joel R. Petrow, Esq.
Chief Patent Counsel
Smith & Nephew, Inc.
1450 Brooks Road
Memphis TN 38116

Respectfully submitted,



Diana DiBerardino

Reg. No. 45,653

Enclosures

DZD/lbc

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Jeffry B. Skiba
Serial No. : Unknown
Filed : March 24, 2004
Title : METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR SUTURING

Art Unit : Unknown
Examiner : Unknown

Attention: Official Draftsman
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

TRANSMITTAL OF FORMAL DRAWINGS

Please substitute the enclosed eleven (11) sheets of formal drawings for the corresponding drawings presently in the application.

Please apply any charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 24, 2004

Diana DiBerardino
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